

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/072 W

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R 051045Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4436

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FT FR ET SO

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI MINISTER DENIES SOMALI ANNEXATION PLANS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1962

1. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT HARGEISA AIRPORT ON DECEMBER 1, EN ROUTE BACK TO DJIBOUTI FROM HIS VISIT TO MOGADISCIO, THE TFAI MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORK, TOURISM AND TRANSPORT, MOHAMED JAMA ELABE, SAID "RUMORS" THAT THE GSDR WANTS TO ANNEX DJIBOUTI ARE "COMPLETELY BASELESS AND...A FABRICATION." HE ADDED THAT THE GSDR SUPPORTS THE "COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE DJIBOUTI PEOPLE."

2. COMMENT: ELABE'S STATEMENT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AUTHORIZED BY THE GSDR AND REFLECTS A DELIBERATE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE GSDR, DISCERNIBLE IN OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS, TO MUTE OVERT ANNEXATIONIST APPEALS AND PROVOCATIVE ACTS THAT INCREASE THE RISK OF AN ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-REACTION. WE THINK THE SOMALIS WOULD PREFER TO AVOID AN ARMED CONFLICT WITH ETHIOPIA OVER DJIBOUTI, BELIEVING THEY HAVE A REASONABLE CHANCE OF GETTING
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WHAT THEY WANT -- RE-UNION OF DJIBOUTI AND SOMALIA -- THROUGH

THE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESSES OF AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI.
THE SOMALIS MAY ALSO CALCULATE THAT, IF IT COMES TO A FIGHT
AFTER ALL, IT WILL BE USEFUL TO THEIR CASE IN INTERNATIONAL
FORUMS IF THE RECORD SHOWS THAT THE GSDR HAS ACTED RESPONSIBLY,
AT LEAST OVERTLY.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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